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Crawford's July Report.

1894.

Strawberry plants came through the winter in good condition, and started to grow very early in the spring. After they had made some growth, a hard freeze came and injured them a good deal, and the damage was still greater farther south. Plants that were uncovered early and were more forward, received more injury. In May we had about three weeks of cold, damp weather. During that time strawberries made but little growth, and when they commenced to ripen the weather became very hot and many varieties seemed inclined to color on the upper side only. Notwithstanding these drawbacks I never raised finer berries than I did this year. Prices were rather below the average, for money was hard to get; but I have yet to hear of any crop that will pay better for the labor expended. Unlike most crops, the returns, one year with another, are in proportion to the skill and faithfulness of the grower, and there is every encouragement to do good work. Careful culture means large crops, ready sales and good prices. Success depends largely on a proper selection of varieties, and I am more and more convinced that each one must decide mainly for himself. This report will tell how the varieties named behaved for me. They may do better elsewhere or perhaps not as well. It is a good plan to test the new sorts in a small way. When one has a variety growing on his own soil he knows just what it is worth to him. It is never wise to plant a new, untried variety extensively; nor, on the other hand is it well to remain ignorant of the merits of those that might bring more profit to the grower.

FALL PLANTING.

The soil for strawberries should always be rich, and this is especially necessary for fall-set plants, as they can not send their roots to a great distance in search of food in the short time in which they have to grow. Old, well decomposed stable manure is excellent, and plenty of it should be used. It is well to apply it after the land is plowed, and then harrow it until the horses have stepped on every square foot. If the bed be small, the manure can be worked in with the hoe. If commercial fertilizer is to be used—I always depend on it—it may be scattered on the surface near the plants as soon as they are set. If bone dust be used, it may be raked into the surface before planting. The soil should be made firm before the plants are set. This will insure their bearing, and will help keep them from being thrown out by the frost. If one is planting a large patch, which is seldom done in the fall, it is well to roll the soil. This not only makes the bed firm and smooth, but also enables one to see just where the surface is, and to set the plants at the proper depth. In planting a small bed my plan is to stretch the line where the row is to be and spat it down with the back of a spade. This gives a smooth surface with the impression of the line for a guide. If the soil be dry, I cover the surface around the plants with a mulch of some kind, and give one thorough watering. An excellent plan is to cut some grass when it is short and green, and scatter it all over the plants. This gives them shade just when they need it, and as the grass dries up they become strong enough to do without shade. If one is using potted plants it is a good way to have the bed prepared some days in advance, and a hole made for each plant. The holes may be filled several times with liquid manure which will soak into the soil and leave it in fine condition for the plants. In using layers it is a good plan to set them temporarily in loamy soil where they can be watered and shaded for a week. Then after a good watering they can be taken up with the soil adhering. These are as good as potted plants. If one wants potted plants

without paying heavy express charges, he can accomplish it by buying layers and potting them as soon as received. They should then be placed where they can be watered and shaded as they need, until the roots reach the pot. Three-inch pots are large enough. If the roots are too long, they may be shortened. This method insures the plants against receiving any check in transplanting, which alone is enough to commend it. After plants are set they should be hoed so frequently that no crust can form on the surface, nor any weeds grow. It is a wise precaution to give fall-set plants winter protection. There is so much bare ground between them that they are liable to be heaved out. On sandy or gravely soil where the drainage is good, there is no danger. Even on clay soil, the danger is diminished by having good surface drainage, and the soil well firmed; and also by setting the plants early enough so that they may become well established before freezing weather comes.



✓ **MARSHALL.**—I was very anxious to see the fruit of this variety after hearing so much in its favor and paying ten dollars for a dozen of the plants. It was the first very large variety to ripen, and I think every berry came to maturity. It is of great size and very beautiful. With a quart containing 19 perfect specimens I captured the prize for the “best quart,” at the great Millersburg show. It was nearly as fine at our Summit County exhibition the next week. It is scarcely ever misshapen, and the color is a rich, glossy red that every one must admire. The quality is far above the average, and I see no reason why it will not become a great favorite as soon as its merits become known. The plant is faultless. I could not suggest a single improvement in it. While ripening its fruit, it sent out a large number of strong runners which remained unrooted for a long time, for want of rain. Still, the plants are as green as grass, and not a spot of rust on them.

The blossom is perfect, and each one is followed by a berry. As to its productiveness, it will not yield as large a number of berries as some varieties, but when measured in quarts or bushels it will, in my opinion, be rather above than below the average.

✓ **MARY.**—“It is the largest strawberry yet produced; the most prolific; the most beautiful and firmest large strawberry yet offered.

The berries are uniformly of the conical form, with blunt apex, exceptionally uniform in size and shape, deep crimson color, and of extra rich, high quality. Of

the entire list of strawberries there is not a single sort that will keep longer when ripe, or endure shipping better. Its season is medium to late. The berries retaining their large size remarkably well to the end—a characteristic of the variety is that its fruit is rarely ill-shaped, never coxcombed—an unusual feature in a large berry.

We have now had it in bearing three consecutive years and as it has not developed a defect, and is so extraordinary in size, productiveness, firmness, beauty and quality, it is with a keen sense of pleasure we offer it to the public."—Introducers. Not fruited here.

✓AROMA.—Companion of the Cyclone, and the better of the two for my soil. The plant shows no weakness of any kind. The fruit is very large, roundish conical, rarely misshapen, glossy red, of excellent quality, and produced in abundance.

✓BANQUET.—"A cross of the wild field strawberry with one of the best of the large, cultivated varieties; combines size and productiveness with *the delicious flavor of the wild strawberry*."—Introducers.

"This year berries were produced, measuring an inch and a half in diameter, which is certainly large enough. The berries sent us were of uniform, conical shape; while a few are shouldered, none are of the coxcomb form. The fruit is perfectly ripened at the end opposite the stem. The color is of a rich crimson without that tendency to turn black—so unfortunate in some varieties.

After carefully testing the Banquet we accord it a place among the highest flavored strawberries. The exquisite flavor of the wild fruit is so marked that we can readily believe that this is due to crossing with the wild plant."—*American Agriculturist*.—Not fruited here.

✓BELLE.—About five years ago a single plant of this variety was sent me for trial, by the originator, Mr. M. T. Thompson (Cleveland Nursery Co.). I was so well pleased with it that I purchased the plant and increased the stock. In the spring of '93 I sent it out on trial, as "51." Several hundred persons bought one or two plants each, agreeing to report upon it after the fruiting season this year. These reports are now coming in. Some lost their plants by last year's drouth, and some their fruit crop by freezing weather this spring, but many had a fair chance to judge of its merits. Most of these think it promising, and some are enthusiastic in its praise. It has a perfect blossom and is late in ripening. It is very productive, and the fruit is large. The best specimens are long, but many of the largest are fan-shaped, and from two to three inches across.

The best report received was from Mr. E. C. Davis of Mass. He picked fruit from his bed thirty-two days, commencing June 8, and made a print of one berry each day, by cutting it in two lengthwise and laying the cut side on a sheet of paper. The halves were then put together, the berry cut crosswise, and another print made. The prints made the long way were from one and seven-eighths to two and three-fourths inches in length. Only two fell below two inches. The crosswise prints were about two thirds the size of the others.

✓BISEL.—From southern Ill., where it has a great reputation as a profitable market berry. Having heard so much of the variety, I was anxious to see how it would behave here. The plant shows no weakness of any kind, but is well able to carry its great load of fruit to maturity. The berries are very large, of regular conical form, bright red, quite firm, with seeds but slightly imbedded, flesh is light red and of good flavor.

✓CYCLONE.—From Kansas. This is a healthy, luxuriant grower, and a good bearer. The fruit is of good size, conical, glossy red, and of fair quality.

✓NOBLE.—I imported this last season, from the originator, Mr. Thomas Laxton, of England. While many European varieties lack vigor here, this has American blood in it, and shows no weakness of any kind. I had hard work to save the

plants last year, on account of the drouth, and they were not in the best condition to bear, but they produced beautiful, round berries of great size, and very good. I obtained a fine lot of plants this spring, and can supply any reasonable number.

✓**ORANGE COUNTY.**—This is the companion of the Timbrell, and was originated by the same man. I have not fruited it, but will give the originator's description: "It is as early as the Crescent; plant resembling Sharpless in strong healthy growth, very large and showy, a good yielder and of good flavor; color, bright red; blossoms pistillate; it will double the Sharpless in yield of fruit."

✓**PRINCETON CHIEF.**—Originated in Illinois in 1884. The following is the originator's description: "It is a tall luxuriant grower, with large, dark green foilage, free from rust or disease, very prolific, enduring extremes of heat and cold. It has been tested on different soils for six years; it will grow on any soil the same as the Crescent. The blossom is large and perfect and always sets perfect fruit.

The fruit is produced in great abundance, on tall, stout stems, which stand up from six to eight inches the entire season, holding its load of berries from the ground; there are no berries on the ground to get dirty, rotten, or scalded. The fruit is given the best chance to mature and ripen all over at once, leaving no green spots or white tips. It is beautiful in color, being of a dark, glossy red, which alone will make it an ornament to any table. They are so beautiful in appearance that the moment they are put on the market they will sell like hot cakes for the highest price. The flavor is delicious and very sweet; being one of the sweetest of strawberries, it can be called the honey strawberry; while its fine aromatic flavor, resembling that of the wild strawberry, makes it one of the most delicious of berries."—Not fruited here.

✓**RIO.**—This fruited under favorable conditions and probably did as well as it ever can on this place. It made a healthy growth last year, and sent out a sufficient number of runners. It was among the first to ripen. The fruit was of fair size—medium to large. The first berries were double and unattractive, but later pickings were quite regular in form. The color is glossy red, and the quality rather above the average.

✓**SPLENDID.**—I have fruited this twice and can offer it to my customers with great confidence. The plant is a healthy, luxuriant grower, sends out many runners, and bears abundantly. The fruit is large, and far above the average in quality and appearance. It is desirable either for market or home use.

✓**TENNESSEE PROLIFIC.**—I have heard a good many favorable reports of this berry, and not one against it. The claims for it are, that it is as large as the Burbach, more productive, of better flavor, and has a perfect blossom. I allowed a number of spring-set plants to bear, and the fruit was large, bright glossy red and of excellent quality. The plant is a vigorous grower, and has dark, clean, glossy foilage much like that of the Capt. Jack. The fruit reminds one of the Jucunda.

✓**TIMBRELL.**—It has fruited here twice, and I am glad to report that the plant is all that can be desired for health, vigor and productiveness; and it is certainly the latest of all so far. The fruit is very large, usually of good shape, and of excellent flavor. This season it failed to ripen uniformly with me, remaining white on the under side when red above. I think that this was owing mainly to the extreme heat, and perhaps in some measure to the fact that the soil was sandy, and no mulch was applied. A grower a few miles from here says that his colored up all right. In this connection it is but fair to say that the fruit is of fine quality before it colors all over.

I have received reports from various quarters extending over a wide area, and some of them place it at the head of the list. A correspondent in Colorado tells of ten berries that made a heaping quart, and weighed 21 ounces. Another in New Jersey who has had it several years, considers it the most valuable variety ever introduced.

CRAWFORD.—This was never finer than during the past season. Many of the berries were fully two inches in diameter, and so glossy and beautiful and delicious, that it was admired from every standpoint. Many have the impression that it succeeds only under high culture, but it had no extra chance this year—and it was very fine. The plants were set in May last year, and allowed to make all the runners they would. These were all taken up and the original plants left to bear. The soil was poor, but a little fertilizer was applied to each plant in September.

SCHEDULE OF PRICES.

	doz.	100 Sept. 1.
MARSHALL, - - - - -	\$1.00	\$5.00
MARY, - - - - -	1.00	
AROMA, - - - - -	.50	
BANQUET, - - - - -	.50	
BELLE, - - - - -	.50	2.50
BISEL, - - - - -	.50	2.50
CYCLONE, - - - - -	.50	
NOBLE, - - - - -	.50	
ORANGE COUNTY, - - - - -	.50	
PRINCETON CHIEF, - - - - -	.50	2.50
RIO, - - - - -	.50	
SPLENDID, - - - - -	.50	
TENNESSEE PROLIFIC, - - - - -	.50	
TIMBRELL, - - - - -	.50	2.50
BARTON, - - - - -	.30	1.50
BEDER WOOD, - - - - -	.30	1.50
BEVERLY, - - - - -	.30	1.50
BUBACH, - - - - -	.30	1.50
CRAWFORD, - - - - -	.30	1.50
GOV. HOARD - - - - -	.30	1.50
HAVERLAND, - - - - -	.30	1.50
JUCUNDA IMPROVED, - - - - -	.30	
LEADER, - - - - -	.30	
MUSKINGUM, - - - - -	.30	
PRINCESS, - - - - -	.30	1.50
WILSON, - - - - -	.30	
WOOLVERTON, - - - - -	.30	1.50

At the above prices plants will be sent by mail postpaid. When ordered by express, *not* prepaid, the prices will be five cents per dozen or 25 cents per hundred less. As the season advances, more plants will be put in for the same money.

Pot grown plants, 25 cents per dozen or \$1 per hundred extra. They must go by express. They are shipped in the pots, packed in damp moss, in baskets.

The Marshall is already potted: other varieties will be potted to order by giving two weeks' notice.

M. CRAWFORD,
CUYAHOGA FALLS, O.

GLADIOLI.

From present indications I shall have several hundred thousand spikes of flowers, the first of which are just beginning to open. These flowers will be for sale at the following prices: Fifty spikes, carefully packed for shipment and delivered at express office but not prepaid, for \$1; 100 spikes for \$1.50; any larger number at the rate of 1 cent a spike and 50 cents for packing.

I am not ready at present to quote prices on bulbs. Later in the fall I shall be able to do so and invite correspondence at that time from dealers and others who may wish to get fine stock at reasonable prices.

TULIPS and DAFFODILS.

I have been much interested in these flowers for many years, and have a fine collection. My intention has been to raise a large number of bulbs, and sell the surplus at wholesale, but I have decided to sell them at retail to my customers. The tulips are the finest obtainable, all late, single varieties, with white or yellow ground, striped or feathered with scarlet, crimson, pink, purple, violet, lilac or black. They are so superior to ordinary tulips that the latter are almost worthless in comparison. They should be planted in October or November, in good soil, four inches deep, and the same distance apart. They are perfectly hardy, and may remain in the bed several years, until they become crowded.

Price, by mail, 25 cents per dozen; \$1.25 per 100. By express, not prepaid, 20 per cent. off.

DAFFODILS.

The daffodil is, in England, second only to the rose in popularity, and in my opinion it is the most charming flower of which I have any knowledge. It is hardy, free from disease, very rarely attacked by insects, and sure to bloom in spite of frost, snow or coal smoke. The bulbs are to be planted in October, and may remain in the ground for fifty years. It is well, however, to take them up every few years and separate them. They should be covered four inches deep in heavy soil, and still deeper in sandy soil. The bulbs I offer are all of my own growing, and will produce more flowers than imported ones—at least 50 per cent. more. I always plant in good season so that the bulbs may make all the root growth possible before winter. For this reason I cannot accept any orders after October first.

EMPEROR.—This is the largest and finest variety obtainable. Trumpet golden yellow, with primrose perianth. 30 cents each, \$3.00 per dozen.

EMPRESS.—The finest bi-color. Trumpet clear yellow; perianth white. 25 cents each, \$2.50 per dozen.

HORSFIELDI.—Almost as fine as the Empress, but not quite so robust. 20 cents each, \$2.00 per dozen.

HENRY IRVING.—Beautiful golden yellow trumpet and perianth. 12 cents each, \$1.00 per doz.

ARD RIGH.—Very early, large and fine. Trumpet and perianth yellow. 10 cents each, \$1.00 per dozen.

PRINCEPS.—Early, and remains in bloom a long time. Very desirable. Clear, yellow trumpet, sulphur perianth. 8 cents each, 75 cents per dozen.

TRUMPET MAJOR.—An old, reliable variety. Trumpet and perianth deep yellow. 5 cents each, 50 cents per dozen.

SIR WATKIN.—A half trumpet variety, and decidedly the best of its class. Over four inches in diameter. Rich, orange yellow; sulphur perianth. 25 cents each, \$2.50 per dozen.

NARCISSUS.

ALBA PLENA.—A double poeticus. Late, fragrant, beautiful. Nearly always in bloom here on Decoration Day. 25 cents per dozen, \$1.25 per hundred.

POETICUS.—(*Poet's Narcissus*).—Three varieties, early, medium and late. 20 cents per dozen, \$1.00 per hundred. One dozen of each, 50 cents.

NEW STRAWBERRIES.

✓**THE BRANDYWINE STRAWBERRY** will be introduced next spring at one dollar a dozen, and five dollars a hundred. I have fruited it twice, and will take a little space here to tell my customers just what there is in it. It has been carefully tested in various localities over the United States and Canada, and it succeeds on any soil. This is the testimony of experienced growers.

The plant is remarkably vigorous, of large size, and as hardy and healthy as any ever sent out. An experienced grower in New England says it is the easiest variety to transplant he ever saw. It sends out many strong runners and produces fruit in abundance. It has a perfect blossom, and its fruit colors all over as well as the best. Its season is rather late, and every berry usually comes to maturity. It has a large, green calyx that adds to the attractiveness of the fruit. The berries are very large, nearly always of regular, conical form; color, bright glossy red, which extends to the center; flesh, firm and of very excellent quality. The seeds are but slightly imbedded, which, with its firmness, will enable it to bear carrying to a distant market. Its great productiveness, very large size, beauty of form and color, firmness and high quality will make it a desirable variety for any purpose. I do not know of any fault, nor do I know of any other sort yet offered that possesses all the desirable qualities in such great perfection. It is seldom that I give advice, but I will say that as one dollar will buy twelve healthy plants next April, which may be increased to one thousand during the season, I believe it to be one of the best opportunities ever offered to put a dollar where it will bring great returns.

✓**WM. BELT.**—This was originated in southern Ohio, by the man whose name it bears. He sent it to me for trial in 1890. It was claimed to be as large as the Bubach, twice as productive, and much better in quality. I find it to be all that was claimed for it as far as size and quality are concerned. I am not ready to say that it is twice as productive as the Bubach, but it is not much short of it. The plant is perfect every way. The first berry on the stem is apt to be coxcombed, but all the others are as regular in form as the Crescent.

The color is all that could be desired. The blossom is perfect.

At our strawberry meeting I had a quart that was well filled with 12 berries. A few days later I picked 12 quarts, three of which contained only 37 berries. These were selected, and all coxcombed. I can raise berries of this variety too large to go through a 3-inch hole. There are but few plants in existence, and none for sale. It is being tested in various places, and will be reported upon in due time.

✓**Annie Laurie.**—This is, perhaps, the most desirable amateur berry, all things considered, that I have fruited. It has created a sensation wherever shown, on account of its size, beauty of form and color, and delicious flavor. It is hard to tell which of the last two is its most prominent characteristic, and in addition to these leading traits it is well up in every good point. It was originated by that veteran strawberry grower, John F. Beaver, of Dayton, O., who thinks that it is not surpassed in real merit by any variety. The plant is very stocky and free from disease, and an excellent grower and bearer. I have fruited it on both light and heavy soil, and it succeeds alike well on either. No plants for sale.

